

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. Pusher for scraper chain conveyors, especially of the kind used in underground mining, comprising an upper member $[(15)]$ and a therewith connectable lower member $[(16)]$, said two members being connectable by means of a bolted connection, each member of said pusher featuring one part of one or more chain beds $(11, 12)$ through which a flat jointing plane runs, as well as one part of the recesses provided for the bolts $[(19)]$ of the bolted connection and located to the outside of the chain bed $(11, 12)$, the upper member $[(15)]$ and the lower member $[(16)]$ embracing each other at least partially, and the upper member $[(15)]$ being configured as a bow-like bridge element that wraps over both ends of the lower member from above, the two ends $[(22)]$ of the bridge-like upper member $[(15)]$ being of cuneiform shape and having upper and lower guide surfaces $(24, 25)$ sloping towards each other in V-formation, and the upper member $[(15)]$ and the lower member $[(16)]$ engaging each other at each end by means of nose-like centering projections $[(17)]$ on the upper member or the lower member, said projections engaging complementary recesses in the contact surfaces of the lower member $[(16)]$ or the upper member $[(15)]$, **characterized in that** wherein supporting surfaces $[(42)]$ are provided between the upper member $[(15)]$ and the lower member $[(16)]$, said supporting surfaces effecting a gap between the upper member and the lower member, at least in the vicinity of the bolted connections $(19, 20)$.

2. Pusher according to claim 1, **characterized in that** wherein the supporting surfaces are formed by protuberances $[(34)]$ on the upper member and/or the lower member, which protuberances, at least in the vicinity of the bolted connections $(19, 20)$, form a preferably slit-like space $[(33)]$ between the upper member and the lower member.

3. Pusher according to claim 1 $[[or\ 2]]$, **characterized in that** wherein the protuberances $[(34)]$ are provided in the two lateral end portions of the upper member and the lower member.

4. Pusher according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the preferably slit like space $[(33)]$ extends over a substantial area between the upper member and the lower member, preferably extending essentially over the entire length of the pusher's jointing plane.

5. Pusher according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the protuberances $[(34)]$ are engineered within the area between the bolted connections ~~(19, 20)~~ provided in both lateral end portions.

6. Pusher according to ~~one of the claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the protuberances are provided in the vicinity of the centering noses $[(17)]$.

7. Pusher according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the protuberances are formed by knuckle-like centering protuberances $[(30)]$ which are raised in such manner that on tightening of the bolted connections ~~(19, 20)~~, the knuckles $[(30)]$ abut on the bottom of the complementary recess in the counterpart and the two chain legs ~~(38, 39)~~ are not clamped.

8. Pusher according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ an additional centering knuckle $[(30)]$ that interacts with a complementary recess $[(31)]$ is provided at the center of the pusher $[(10)]$.

9. Pusher according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the engaging surfaces, or contact surfaces, between the centering nose $[(17)]$ and the centering recess $[(26)]$ are formed by the frontal nose surface $[(35)]$, the two lateral nose surfaces $[(41)]$ or the surfaces $[(35)]$ on either side of and bordering on the recess $[(26)]$.

10. Pusher according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the supporting surfaces forming the space $[(33)]$ are formed by a depression (47) on the bottom of the upper member and/or of the lower member.

11. Pusher according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the chain link is held by friction and positively within the chain bed (~~11, 12~~), there being in this area, i.e. in the jointing plane, a small space between the upper and lower members which permits pretensioning of the two members.

12. Pusher according to ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the underside of the lower member $[(16)]$ is provided in the vicinity of its ends with recesses $[(33)]$ that create a space between each end of the lower member and the base plate $[(4)]$ of the conveyor.

13. The pusher of claim 12, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the recessed surface of the lower member is flush with the lower surface of the wrap-over ends $[(22)]$ of the upper member $[(15)]$.